

S-E-C-R-E-T

21 April 1961

MEMORANDUM FOR: Bureau Chiefs

FROM: Chief, FBIS

SUBJECT: Letter of Information

GENERAL1. African Bureau 50X1

a. Bids were received from three prospective contractors, in amounts of \$47,000 from D'Alberto, Ltd., \$57,000 from the African Construction Co., and \$80,000 from Costain, Ltd. The Bureau Chief recommended that a contract be awarded to the D'Alberto Company. Headquarters has approved the bid.

b. Floor plans, elevations, and site plans for the houses have been made available by FBIS to the house construction contractor. Although the houses will be leased, this assistance was given, not only to assure features which FBIS desired for its employees, but also to expedite commencement of construction. Sites for the houses are being cleared and manufacture of concrete blocks is proceeding.

c. A Certificate of Occupancy has been issued FBIS covering the operations site. An annual rental of 5 pounds per acre was set for the 35.78 acres being leased. The term of the lease was set at 80 years, with rent subject to revision every 10 years.

d. Training of the Bureau's two foreign language monitors and the cruising monitor continues. Cruising, monitoring, and training operations continue to be limited by equipment shortages.

e. Antenna plans and specifications have been completed. A contract was presented to the Marconi Wireless Co. early in April to cover construction of two Rhombic and four doublet antennas. Steel towers will be used to prevent damage from African termites, which cannot be checked by any type of wood treatment known.

f. On 1 March the FBIS wire for the first time disseminated to its recipients material wirefiled from the new bureau.

2. Preparations are in progress to send a two-man survey team to Puerto Rico in May of this year to determine whether the island would be a suitable location for monitoring South American, African, and European

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transmitters. Arrangements providing for Department of Defense support of this mission are presently being made. The team, consisting of [redacted] Deputy Chief, Field Operations Staff, and [redacted] Cruising Monitor, BIS, will conduct a survey of reception potential of a proposed monitoring station on the south central coast of Puerto Rico. The station's mission would be, not only the improved coverage of Central and South America, but also emergency coverage of Africa and the Mediterranean area. [redacted]

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3. The USIB approved a recommendation by its Warning Systems Survey Committee that FBIS undertake a special study to identify bloc propaganda patterns associated with the building of tension and conditioning of bloc populations for hostilities. FBIS was directed to take initial steps in planning this study, with the understanding that implementation of the project will remain contingent on the availability of manpower and facilities. [redacted]

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4. Foreign radio and press reaction to President Kennedy's 23 March statement on the Laotian crisis was stressed daily throughout the month of March, both on the FBIS wire and in the Daily Report. In addition to selected items transmitted or published, FBIS supplied the intelligence community with wirefiled roundups of comment, prepared mainly from communist sources. [redacted]

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5. Monitoring observations by FBIS in the Far East indicate that the Pathet Lao Radio and the Radio of the Laotian Kingdom have been using the same transmitting facilities for some time. Also, recent technical clues indicate that both radios transmit from the same location as the communist Voice of Vietnam station in the Hanoi area. [redacted]

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6. A Panama Post survey of reception potential indicates that expansion of the Post would permit FBIS to maintain minimum necessary coverage of Latin American countries. However, no action will be taken pending a study of manpower and financial resources. [redacted]

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7. The Chief, Engineering Staff, spent two and one-half days during the middle of March at the Coles Signal Laboratory of Ft. Monmouth, New Jersey, attending a symposium on direction finding equipment. He learned that currently available equipment is in short supply, is priced at \$50 to \$75 thousand per set, and is considered obsolete. The Navy and the Air Force are concentrating on Wollenweber and related interferometer systems, the first of a new design to be built and put in operation by the Navy on Okinawa by mid-1962 at a cost of about \$4 million. More reasonably priced Doppler and Time Difference systems, which are easily employable by FBIS on existing real estate, will not be available for several years. It, therefore, appears that FBIS should deemphasize plans for procurement of equipment for several years, and should concentrate on DF service from other agencies. [redacted]

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8. The Chief, Engineering Staff, and the Assistant Chief Engineer, ECB, visited the International Institute of Radio Engineers show and technical sessions in New York City on March 20 through March 23. They then visited the Technical Material Corporation manufacturing plant at Mamaroneck, New York, where they observed operation of a highly stable mechanically tuned synthesized receiver system that can be programmed to tune itself to a full day's schedule of stations without human attention. They also contacted Bay State Electronics, at Roxbury, Massachusetts, regarding types of equipment usable in the radio teletype transmission field. This information will be used by FBIS in determining equipment needed to intercept radio teletype press circuits. [REDACTED]

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9. Of 261 items included in the Current Intelligence Digest during March, 93 (35.6 percent) were based wholly or in part on FBIS monitoring. [REDACTED]

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10. During the month 85 percent of Daily Report pages were devoted to broadcast material and 15 percent to press scrutiny. [REDACTED]

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11. Bureaus are reminded that approval of advance sick leave is not automatic. Such requests must go to the Director of Personnel, with appropriate recommendations and concurrences attached, for approval. Since concurrence of the Medical Staff is necessary, the request may be processed more speedily if the required physician's statement is forwarded as soon as possible after the request is teletyped to Headquarters. [REDACTED]

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PROPAGANDA ANALYSIS COMMENT (Confidential)

1. Radio Propaganda Reports (Responsible analyst indicated in parentheses):

a. "Soviet Propaganda on the Idea of Joint Studies in Outer Space." A copy of this report was forwarded to Dr. Jerome B. Wiesner, Special Assistant to the President. [REDACTED]

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b. "Soviet Slogans for May Day 1961," in the semiannual series on the CPSU's May Day and October Revolution Anniversary slogans. [REDACTED]

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2. Eight spot analyses of Moscow, Peking, Hanoi, and Pathet Lao radio treatment of the Laotian crisis were disseminated on the FBIS Wire with a view to defining the Soviet position and calling attention to evident dissent on the part of Peking, Hanoi, and the Pathet Lao. The Director expressed special interest in the first of these items, which was disseminated on 23 March. This and the seven subsequent items were utilized by the DD/I's staff and by OCI in preparing material for the White House. (Analysts: [REDACTED])

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3. Other Propaganda Analysis Items on the FBIS Wire (Responsible analyst indicated in parentheses):

a. "Indications of Difficulties in Sino-Soviet Economic Talks"

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b. "Sino-Soviet Trade Talks Near Conclusion; No Report on 'Economic Relations' Talks"

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c. "Highlights of the 1961 May Day Slogans"

50X1

4. RPB Special Services:

a. FBIS resumed its support of the U.S. delegation to the Geneva nuclear test-ban talks on 16 March, five days before the talks reopened. Twenty RPB analyses were cabled to the delegation through OCI, and key textual material was wirefiled directly to Geneva by the London Bureau. This service is continuing. (Analyst:)

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b. A study of "Propaganda Evidence Bearing on Soviet Weapons Development and War Planning" was prepared in support of NIE 11-8-61: SOVIET CAPABILITIES FOR LONG-RANGE ATTACK. (Analyst:)

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c. The first of four weekly Special Memoranda on "Omissions in the Soviet Home Service" was prepared for the Director, at his request. After the fourth report is issued, a determination will be made as to the continued usefulness of the service. (Compiled by)

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d. A Special Memorandum on "Charges of U.S. Racism in Soviet Broadcasts to Africa" was prepared at the request of USIA/IRI. (Analyst:)

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5. RPB has begun informally to explore with FPD the feasibility of a project to exploit the publications of key nonbloc communist parties in connection with analysis of the ramifications of the Sino-Soviet dispute in the world communist movement.

6. The following are among Radio Propaganda Reports projected or under consideration for publication within the next few months (responsible analyst indicated in parentheses):

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a. "Soviet Provincial Press Treatment of Article on 20th CPSU Congress Anniversary: Unusual Display of Local Autonomy"

b. "Polish Literary and Cultural Developments Since the 10th Congress of the Polish Writers Union"

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c. "Problems Encountered in the Administration of CPR Communes"



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7. Saigon and Okinawa Bureaus are complimented for their coverage of the Laotian situation under difficult conditions. The FYI's and comparisons of Hanoi and Peking versions of Pathet Lao statements were particularly useful to RPP in preparing spot analyses for dissemination on the FBIS wire.

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EDITORIAL BRANCH COMMENT**GENERAL**

1. On 3 April several changes were made in the DAILY REPORT format. The title of the blue book was changed to "Middle East, Africa, & West Europe." The OFFICIAL USE ONLY label at the tops of pages was eliminated as a separating device between unclassified and classified segments of the volume. Upper case pagination was introduced for the "white book" segments and lower case pagination for segments not to be used in the "white book." The label UNCLASSIFIED has been abandoned, and the OFFICIAL USE ONLY label now controls material by item rather than by page, as formerly. The caveat on the covers has been changed to reflect the new procedure, and chapter designations have been brought in line with the new format.

2. On 16 March the FBIS wire transmitted to the intelligence community a Saudi Arabia Government communique on projected cancellation of the Dhahran Air Base agreement several hours ahead of the first AP mention.

3. Several recent incidents have forcefully dramatized for editors in headquarters a fact we all knew: the monitoring operation involves the possibility of error which, considering the nature of the work, cannot be completely eliminated. But an awareness of the hazards and pitfalls inherent in reception and translation is by no means a justification for apathy or the acceptance of errors as unavoidable. The number of errors can be reduced by a cooperative effort in which monitors solicit a fresh pair of ears to listen to an elusive phrase, and in which the editor questions any rendering which offends his sense of the logical and reasonable.

4. The FYI is an extremely valuable means for providing the Wire with an advance capsule summary of an important item which will be filed in more comprehensive form as rapidly as possible. Two recent FYI's which were overly interpretive in describing the contents of a broadcast have emphasized the need for the greatest care in the composition of these preliminary alerts, especially when critical points at issue are concerned.

5. On occasion it is appropriate to indicate in parentheses the original language of a word or phrase for which no standard translation exists, or when the monitor or editor thinks there is special interest in the original word as broadcast. However, when an arbitrary translation for a specific word or phrase is used, the copy as filed should clearly indicate whether the original word was the same each time the translation appears in the copy.

6. Bureaus are again urged to exercise greater care in giving time elements when transmitting items with precedence of 00 or higher. Time of interception, filing time, and sign-off time should be precise so that speed of transmission to headquarters can be determined accurately.

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7. All bureaus are to be commended for their prompt and effective changeover and adjustment to the new form of indicating dates in logographs. Both the Daily Report and the FBIS Wire have adopted the new style, although the Wire uses a somewhat abbreviated form. There have been very few lapses by the field, and the result has been an extremely smooth transition to a style which minimizes errors, simplifies typing, and is more attractive.

8. Roundups of noncommunist press and radio treatment of the Laotian situation (28 March) and of free world and communist handling of the first manned space flight (13 April) were filed on the FBIS Wire.

German Bureau

1. The bureau's efforts to cut back the file of marginal East German press scrutiny material are appreciated. It is suggested that more material from the Radio Volga programs could be used in place of the press scrutiny items, particularly talks dealing with army-party relations.

2. Surveys of particular transmissions, such as those from Warsaw to Africa, should be flagged COPY TO BIS rather than COPY TO RFB (which automatically gets a copy of all bloc material).

Austrian Bureau

1. An increased use of cues could help the bureau cut down on its unused word count. For instance, cues could well have been sent on Belgrade press coverage of Tito's activities in Africa. Some of the material filed was not used in the Daily Report because it was available from other sources.

London Bureau

1. Although it is not necessary to file all material reviewed in the daily roundup, if the writer considers material which he has reviewed to be of sufficient interest he should see to it that it is filed prior to the transmission of his roundup. If time or other factors prevent this, an FYI should be sent immediately after the roundup has been filed notifying headquarters that the items are being sent.

2. When TASS or Radio Moscow carry short summaries of statements by Western or neutralist leaders, such as De Gaulle and Nehru, these should be filed to give an indication of what the USSR considers significant in the statements.

3. The bureau is commended for its rapid and comprehensive handling of material relating to the flight of the first Soviet cosmonaut; very little editorial compression was needed to publish almost all of the available items on the first two days of the developing story.

4. Statements by communist leaders outside the bloc when reported by Radio Moscow should be filed in full. For example, the excerpting of several

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key passages out of an article by the Indian Communist Party secretary relating to Indian - Chinese difficulties and criticism of Nehru's policy on the Congo delayed publication of this significant item until fill-ins had been received 24 hours later.

Mediterranean Bureau

1. The bureau is to be commended for rapid handling of the Warsaw Pact meeting communique, released well in advance of other sources on the TASS transmission for the Central Asia press. It is a good example of how this transmission can provide certain key editorial material on an exclusive basis. In general, editorial items from this service should be processed on a limited basis in view of the special publication problems posed. Items which are not of immediate interest should be cued to London, with a drop copy to headquarters.

2. Consumers appreciated the weather survey of Soviet regional radios which the bureau filed on its own initiative.

3. FYI's giving advance notice of processing of long items should, when possible, give a firm indication of the length of the item and the estimated time for processing. A statement that "length of the item is announced as about six TASS stencils" is meaningless to headquarters editors unless there is accompanying data which gives information on the normal wordage of such a stencil.

4. Editors are requested to identify in an editor's note the party affiliation of Israeli newspapers covered in the daily press review.

West Coast Bureau

1. Extra care should be taken in checking proper names. On several occasions recently headquarters has received names of prominent officials either misspelled or spelled with several variations in one item, e.g., Tosi, Tossi, Tozi, Tozzi.

Bureaus Covering Soviet Regional Affairs

1. There has been a noticeable drop in the amount of material filed under the USSR ONLY project which could normally be considered low-level economic information and thus better processed as economic abstracts. Continuing efforts to minimize this file will be appreciated.

2. The Daily Report has carried a compilation, on a weekly basis, of names of Soviet personalities on a lower than republic level who have been involved in the many recent administrative changes throughout the USSR. Bureaus are encouraged to bring information of this type to the attention of headquarters' editors in the form of weekly FYI's where applicable.

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ENGINEERING AND FIELD OPERATIONS

1. The Soviet television network is expected to be linked with the television network in East Europe (Intervision) and with the Eurovision Network in Western Europe in time for the Moscow May Day parade. These connections will bring certain Soviet telecasts within coverage range of FBIS or EBC monitoring stations in Europe. Radio Moscow has been publicizing the imminent completion of the connections for the past few weeks. The Austrian Bureau was requested to give fullest coverage of Intervision reportage of the May Day Parade by the Bratislava television station. The London and German Bureaus were requested to advise what coverage will be provided by their host countries. Their answers will determine what coverage of Eurovision FBIS will be able to provide.

2. The Broadcast Information Section compiled a special, up-to-date survey of Cuban radio and television broadcasting for USIA which is to be used as background material by the Chief, VOA.

3. The much-publicized 100 kilowatt Havana shortwave transmitter started experimental broadcasts during the past month on 11770 kilocycles. The transmitter tests approximately three hours nightly, announcing itself as the "Cuban Experimental Shortwave," and occasionally runs daytime tests with tone and modulation. Signal strength in the Washington area is excellent and should be good in Europe and Latin America as well. There are indications that it will be officially inaugurated on or before May Day with broadcasts in at least four languages. At the present time it broadcasts experimentally in Spanish only.

4. The Broadcast Information Section recently instituted the practice of including background and schedule details of foreign press services in its weekly Station and Program Notes in order to give clients more rapid service on various foreign press transmissions, new agencies, etc. The irregularly published "Press Notes and Alterations" will continue to be released as time permits.

5. Radio Bucharest replaced its French and English programs for the Near and Middle East with Arabic language programs on 3 April totalling 7 hours weekly. This is the first time Bucharest has broadcast in this language.

6. Bureaus are reminded that programs starting at midnight GMT should be slugged 0000 GMT not 0001 GMT. The ending time for programs closing at midnight GMT should be expressed as 2400 GMT.

7. The long and medium wave multicouplers, manufactured by the Technical Material Corporation, and which had been removed from stock to be reworked by the manufacturer, have been returned to stock and approved for shipment to bureaus. The multicouplers now meet specifications fully.

8. Construction progress on the addition to the Operations Building at Bolo Point, Okinawa, continues to be slow. Completion now stands at

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75 percent.

ADMINISTRATION

1. All overseas bureaus are requested to discontinue the use of the white "Application for Employment" Form 1193 dated 1 March 1957 for non-American personnel and use instead the revised yellow Form 1193 dated September 1958.

2. The attention of all classified and foreign national employees is called to the "Retirement Act Order of Precedence" quoted below:

"If there is no designated beneficiary living, any lump-sum benefit which becomes payable after the death of an employee or former employee will be payable to the first person or persons listed below who are alive on the date title to the payment arises.

1. To the widow or widower.
2. If neither of the above, to the child or children in equal shares, with the share of any deceased child distributed among the descendants of that child.
3. If none of the above, to the parents in equal shares or the entire amount to the surviving parent.
4. If none of the above, to the executor or administrator of the estate of the decedent.
5. If none of the above, to the next of kin under the laws of the State in which the decedent was domiciled."

If an employee wishes his lump-sum retirement to be distributed in any order other than that listed above, he should complete S. F. 2808, Designation of Beneficiary, Civil Service Retirement System.

The same order of precedence governs the distribution of unpaid compensation (i.e., lump-sum salary and annual leave payments, travel, etc.), and Federal Employees' Group Life Insurance.

3. Foreign National or Native Employees insured under the Contract Hospitalization Plan should never submit claims on Form 1618 as this form is for the use of classified employees only. Instead, the Bureau Chief or Administrative Officer should submit the same information on foreign nationals and native personnel to headquarters in memorandum form.

4. The following FBIS regulatory issuances were released during the month of March:



PERSONNEL CHANGES

1. New Employees

Assignment

Analyst, RPB STAT

2. Reassignments

From

To

**Chief
Editorial Branch**

**Chief
West Coast Bureau** STAT

**Editor
East Coast Bureau**

**Editor, USSR & EE Sect.
Editorial Branch**

**Editor
Editorial Branch**

**Editor
East Coast Bureau**

**Clerk Typist
Editorial Branch**

**Secretary
Engineering Staff**

**Chief
RPB**

**Chief
London Bureau**

**Watch Officer
East Coast Bureau**

**Watch Officer
Okinawa Bureau**

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3. Separations



From

Chief
West Coast Bureau

(Retirement)

STAT

Clerk Typist
Editorial Branch

(Retirement)

STAT

ROGER G. SEELY

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